



# Market Bulletin

Bob Odom, Commissioner

Celebrate America's rich history



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***"I've been kicked, bitten, stepped on, run over. I've gone through two back surgeries. It all took a toll on me. I've slowed down quite a bit."***

**DICK FANGUY, farrier**



Farrier Dick Fanguy of Chauvin sizes a new horseshoe to the back foot of a Thoroughbred named Bogart (left). Fanguy trims excess tissue from the foot as Bogart rests his leg in a hoof stand (above). Farriers use a variety of clippers, snippers, pliers, files, rasps and cutters to prepare the hoof surface for a shoe.

## FOR THE WANT OF A NAIL

### Chauvin man plies trade in equine industry

By Sam Irwin

Equine veterinarians, dentists, trainers, stablehands, jockeys and riders all are very important human components that keep our ponies healthy and happy.

But none may be as important as the farrier, the horseshoeing specialist. It's only natural the hooves should be well-cared for since the horse makes his living on his feet.

And in the tri-parish area of East Baton Rouge, Ascension and Iberville, farrier Dick Fanguy of Chauvin is recognized as one of the best.

A certified Journeyman of the American Farrier Association, Fanguy has been shoeing horses professionally for more than 35 years.

There's not much he hasn't seen or done with horses.

As he bends over and coaxes Bogart, a retired Thoroughbred turned jumper, to prop his leg on a shoeing stand, Fanguy starts into the arduous task of filing down the shoeing nails protruding from the hoof. The file looks a lot like any carpenter's rasp. He handles the tool easily and efficiently, quickly smoothing the nail to blend into the hoof. Done with one foot, Bogart casually allows Fanguy to lift his hooves one at a time and place them on the shoeing stand. The farrier ceremoniously cleans, buffs, sands, grinds and polishes each hoof during the process.

Bogart, a former professional racing horse, is used to the foot care.

"There are some successful farriers, but there are a lot more unsuccessful farriers," Fanguy said. "The main reason there are unsuccessful farriers is that it's hard work."

The horse is an appealing animal, Fanguy said, and lots of peo-

ple want to work with them.

"You have a finite number of horses available and an infinite number of people who want to make a living with them," Fanguy said. "The competition is there. Until you get really established, your work is seasonal. That all disappears when you become successful."

And how does one become successful in the horseshoeing business?

"I worked in lots of bad conditions, rain, mud," the 60-year-old farrier said. "I remember shoeing horses by the headlights of a pickup truck. I shod in hog pens. Also, when you start, you don't get the good horses. You get the bad horses."

As the word "bad" so obviously indicates, renegade horses are difficult to shoe.

And dealing with bad and good animals has taken its toll on Fanguy's body. He missed nine months of work last year recovering from surgery.

"I've been kicked, bitten, stepped on, run over," he says from his bent over position as he hammers a nail into Bogart's hoof. "I've had my share of injuries over the years. Back injuries, broken bones. When the back goes it pretty much puts you down. I couldn't work nine months last year."

"I've gone through two back surgeries and recovered from a staph infection. It all took a toll on me. I've slowed down quite a bit."

But even good horses, typically easy to shoe, can cause unexpected problems.

"There's no such a thing as an atheist in horseshoeing because you'll make all kind of deals with the Lord to get you through to

**See Farrier, page 2**



Fanguy hammers a red hot shoe into the precise shape needed to fit the hoof.





One of the first steps in horseshoeing is preparing the surface. Fanguy uses a filing tool to smooth the rough edges of Bogart's hoof.



Some horses need custom footwear to help correct gait problems. A grinder can quickly file away shoe metal to fit the horse properly.



Fanguy gently taps a nail through the shoe into the horse hoof to start it. Two quick blows to the nail head force the fastener into the hoof.

## Farrier, continued from page 1

the next horse," Fanguy said. "Right here where we're working, I had a horse kick me in the face."

Susan Biel, owner of Country Bayou Stables near St. Gabriel, knows exactly the story Fanguy is about to recount.

"You weren't even shoeing the horse. It was your fault," she said.

Fanguy agreed. "It was my fault. I was lifting the hose pipe over my box and the hose ran up between the horse's back legs. He got scared and fired with both feet. And you know the good Lord protects the ignorant and the little children. I saw the foot coming and I literally caught it in the air. And my hand came into my face. I can still remember coming to with Susan kneeling over me saying, 'Please don't be dead. Please don't be dead.'

"But that was my fault. I went to sleep and you can't go to sleep at the wheel with these animals. Even the ones as good as Bogart. If something sets him off, you better be prepared to move, or get out of the way.

"He's a big, docile animal." Fanguy whispered. "But he's a big animal."

Fanguy has had a lifelong obsession with horses.

"My family was involved in agriculture," he said. "We've always been

involved with cattle and we always had horses around. I grew up with horses."

Fanguy said farrier work is taught in trade schools, but he said it's not enough.

"The best farrier education is an apprenticeship and working under a seasoned farrier," Fanguy said. "That's basically what I did. I worked under Lawrence Leonardo out of New Orleans. I did go off to shoeing schools, but I didn't learn from them what I learned from Lawrence. He was a third generation farrier."

Always a good student, Fanguy attended Louisiana State University and got a degree in business education. He financed his education by shoeing horses at the veterinary school.

Upon graduation, he embarked upon a high school teaching career in Terrebonne Parish, but found he needed to shoe horses in his spare time so he could afford his teacher lifestyle.

After retirement from the school system, Fanguy began shoeing horses full time and has loved every minute of it.

His truck is loaded with tools of the trade: horseshoes, nails, hammers, chisels, files, a propane-heated forge, and a variety of pliers and snippers. He has a home in Chauvin, but works primarily out of his truck five days a week in and around the St. Gabriel area. By his reckoning, he takes care of more than 120 horses. He can often be found at Biel's Country Bayou Stables.

He says farriers are especially needed in Louisiana because of the soft terrain.

"Louisiana is not horse country," he said bluntly. "The ground is not hard enough for horses. There's not enough sand and rock here to wear their feet out naturally so the foot grows like a fingernail. And if you don't trim it back,

it will get distorted and deformed and cause problems.

"The only reason the horses stay in Louisiana is because of the fences. That's not nice to say, but it's true. It's not horse country. We want horses and we want to enjoy horses but conditions are not the greatest for horses, so the horn has got to be trimmed, got to be cut back."

Fanguy says horses need to be shod every four to six weeks, but not all horses need constant shoeing. Horses should be shod to protect the foot, give it additional traction and enhance the gait. He said the foot is the foundation of the animal and must be kept level, flat and in proper alignment with the leg.

The horse's geometry is problematic.

"When you look at a horse, it's not designed very well," Fanguy said. "He carries about 70 percent of the weight on his front feet because of the neck and head. The horse generates

power from his back end so it's a constant effort to balance the two ends of the horse to get him to move correctly."

Farriers are trained to correct problems with the horse's feet and gait, but sometimes the best training in the world flies out the window with a problem horse. That's when Fanguy relies on the farrier grapevine.

"We've got a local network of farriers," Fanguy said. "I call them or they call me if it's something they've never seen before.

"We try to share ideas with each other to see what's going to work. I'll give you a perfect example: one of my first horses at Susan's barn had a conformation over in the knees. The horse was buck-kneed. Now I was pretty well trained. I looked at the horse and pronounced him shod incorrectly. So I did him correctly, the way I was taught, but the horse went terrible. It fell apart on me and I'm scratching my head. What do I do now? The horse was worse.

"So I called a farrier in Pine Bluff, Ark., that I knew. He asked if I ever heard of Newton's Laws. I said for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, but what do you mean by that?

"Pine Bluff said if you cut the heel off him and it messed him up, try going the other way and add heel to him. See if it's going to fix him."

Fanguy laughed loud and hearty at the simple explanation.

"I came back and did the horse just the opposite the way you should and the horse has been fine ever since. To quote an old friend, 'you

shoe two horses exactly alike, the odds are one of them is wrong.'"

The attitude of seeking outside help to correct a horse's problem is one of the things Fanguy likes best about the farrier business.



The shoeing nails have been filed even with the surface of the hoof. Notice the front part of the hoof has also been smoothed to fit flush with the horseshoe platform.

"That's the greatest thing about this profession is the willingness of other farriers to share their ideas with each other," Fanguy said. "Here in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas we created the Southern Farriers Association. Its purpose is education. We have three to four clinics a year."

Now in the twilight of his career

Fanguy has slowed down appreciably. He used to shoe 10 horses a day. Now he has cut back to four, but has no intention of quitting anytime soon.

"I love horses. It's been a lifelong thing with me," he said. "I've always loved horses. When the other kids wanted a bike or a car, I wanted a horse. I have been infatuated with horses. Doing farrier work satisfies my need to be around them. It makes me feel like I'm helping them.

"I truly wish I got along with my customers as I do with my horses. Horses are really a peaceful animal and for the most part, I enjoy being associated with the people around them. My client list ranges from blue collar to research scientists. They all have something to learn.

"I don't think there is anything I'd want to do other than this."

Dick Fanguy can be reached at (225) 315-1100. For more information on the farrier trade, visit [www.americanfarriers.org](http://www.americanfarriers.org).



# Coming Your Way

**The Southeast Angus/Brangus** Breeders Association is holding a bull sale at 1 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Ag Fair Building in Raceland.

For more information, contact Ronald Chiasson at (985) 693-7218.

**A performance tested** bull sale, hosted by the Louisiana Bull Testing Association and the LSU AgCenter, will be held at noon March 4 in the show barn at Dean Lee Research Station in Lecompte.

Bulls will be performance evaluated and screened. Forty to 50 bulls of several breeds will be available.

For more information, contact Danny Coombs at (318) 473-6528 or (318) 308-3928.

**North Louisiana Poultry Club**

is hosting an open show and junior show March 11 at the Fairgrounds in Haynesville.

The show will feature large fowl and bantams.

For more information, contact Jim Crain at (318) 927-2795.

**Louisiana Angus Association** will hold its annual female sale at noon March 11 at the Dean Lee Research Center in Lecompte.

Sixty lots of cow/calf pairs, bred and open heifers will be available.

For a free catalog, visit the Web site [www.americanlivestockbrokers.com](http://www.americanlivestockbrokers.com).

For more information, contact Jarvene Shackelford at (662) 837-4904.

**Tin Top Arena** in Lecompte will host winter buckle series barrel

racing/pole bending events March 11 and March 25.

Open, novice horse and age group classes will be offered. Exhibitions begin at 11 a.m. with competitions to follow.

For more information, call (318) 445-8907.

**The 2006 Sugasheaux** - open family horse show - will be held March 15-18 at the SugArena in New Iberia.

Youth, junior and senior divisions available in a variety of jackpot classes with 50 percent payback.

The schedule includes: open arena ride night, March 15; team sorting only, March 17; full show, March 18.

For more information, contact

Norma at (337) 365-7539 or (337) 577-0722.

**High Delta Exotics** Spring Super Exotic Auction and Extravaganza will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m. April 1 at the ranch in Delhi.

Ranch tours and lunch will be available in the morning with the sale starting at 12:30 p.m.

Consignment deadline for the auction is March 15.

High Delta is also now open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Horse trail rides and tours cost \$15.

For more information and tour times, call 1-888-244-3319 or visit [www.highdelta.com](http://www.highdelta.com).

**The Louisiana Tech University**

Farm Production Sale will be held at 1 p.m. May 6 at Tech Farm in Ruston.

Quarterhorses, paints, heifers, steers, hogs and lambs will be available for sale.

For more information, visit [www.livestocksale.latech.edu](http://www.livestocksale.latech.edu) or contact Dr. Gary Kennedy at (318) 257-3275.

**Woods Ranch in Minden** is holding auctions beginning at 6 p.m. the first and third Saturday of every month.

A consignment sale for tractors and equipment will be held the last Saturday of every month.

Full RV hookups and a riding arena are also available.

For more information, call (318) 377-4747 or (318) 469-0837.

## Shade trees, *continued from page 12*

plant if enough space is available to handle the tree's wide limb spread.

"The hurricanes showed us it survived better than any other species," he said. "It's fairly low and extremely strong. It's compact and doesn't stick up there like a big stop sign to grab the wind like a tall pine tree."

Campbell also said a live oak can sometimes act as a foil and actually lift gale winds over roofs.

Although the live oak is not included in the LDAF hardwood packet, Campbell said oak seedlings are readily available at commercial nurseries throughout the state.

The young trees can be molded and nurtured for optimum growth for the future, Campbell said.

"The storms pointed out to us how much improper maintenance can cost a tree," Campbell said. "If a property owner plants a tree now, he can monitor its growth. A young tree can be properly pruned to eliminate structural defects at minimal cost. If these structural issues are addressed, then it has a greater chance to grow into a healthy mature tree. When the tree is fully grown, pruning is impractical and often can't be done."

Not all areas are ready for replanting, Campbell warned.

"There are challenges and lots of places that aren't ready for planting, like right of ways, where debris is still piled up for disposal," Campbell said. "But a yard is a different situation. The homeowner has control of his debris and knows when the area is going to be safe for planting."

Campbell said the bare root seedlings sold

by LDAF should be planted by the end of March when hardwood trees are in their dormant stage. Potted trees may be planted throughout the year.

"The advantage for bare root seedlings is they are inexpensive and easy to plant," he added. "They also have a high rate of survivability because they have so much of their root system intact."

Shade-tree seedlings will be offered for sale at LDAF locations throughout the state, Commissioner Bob Odom said.

Most of the seedling sales, including in New Orleans, will be the week of March 6 through March 10. In Lafayette, the dates are

March 2 through March 11, with the exception of Sunday, March 5.

LDAF's City Park office in New Orleans was damaged by floodwaters, and at press time the location of the seedling sale had not been determined. Call (225) 925-4500 for more information.

Other locations are LDAF headquarters in Baton Rouge and district offices in Hammond, Clinton, Oberlin, DeRidder, Woodworth, Natchitoches, Haughton and Monroe.

LDAF does not have a Lake Charles office, but Calcasieu residents can purchase seedlings in nearby DeRidder.

Pine packets, consisting of 20 seedlings, are also available.

Odom said all of the species in the seedling packets are native to

Louisiana and should grow well nearly everywhere.

"These seedlings, given the proper chance, should grow into beautiful shade trees," Odom said. "But Tom is right. If you're

planting seedlings in an urban setting, you've got to make sure you've got the room. It's cheaper to plan accordingly than to prune branches away from the house years later when the tree gets too big."

Campbell added it was very important to plant the seedlings where they will not interfere with overhead utility lines, underground sewer lines, slab foundations, walkways or driveways as they mature.

Campbell could not estimate how many

seedlings will be purchased at the New Orleans sale. Population estimates for the city are running at 140,000.

"There are so few people in the city. Is tree planting a priority for them? I don't know," Campbell said. "How many are thinking about trees?"

But even if it's just a handful, or even one single solitary tree it's a step in the right direction. After all, a forest is grown tree by tree.



**Firmly pack the soil around the newly-planted seedling.**



**Water the seedling thoroughly to remove any below ground air pockets (when bubbling stops). Water the tree once a week if there is no rainfall and do not apply fertilizer.**

### LDAF Headquarters & District Office phone numbers:

**Baton Rouge (225) 925-4500**  
**Clinton (225) 683-5862**  
**DeRidder (337) 463-7801**  
**Hammond (985) 543-4057**  
**Haughton (318) 949-3225**

**Lafayette (337) 262-5433**  
**Monroe (318) 345-7595**  
**Natchitoches (318) 357-3126**  
**Oberlin (337) 639-4978**  
**Woodworth (318) 487-5172**

### Date set for greenhouse tomato seminar

Greenhouse tomato growers can expect "hands on" experience during the LSU AgCenter's 10th Annual Greenhouse Tomato Seminar slated for 1 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Red River Research Station.

Dr. H.Y. Hanna, an LSU AgCenter researcher who is in charge of the greenhouse tomato project and the seminar, said the program will be somewhat different from years past. Growers will get to participate in actual production practices that have proven to minimize errors and improve plant productivity.

"Most of the training session will be conducted in and around the greenhouses in fresh air," Hanna said. "Growers will participate and/or watch us demonstrate how to produce a successful tomato crop from seeding to termination."

There is no registration fee for the seminar.

Among the topics on the agenda is a discussion on inverted gutters. These gutters are a new technology Hanna is using in the

greenhouses at the research station.

Other topics for demonstrations and discussions include selecting greenhouse tomato varieties; producing transplants in rock, wool, pro-mix and horticulture cubes; feeding transplants and mature plants; correcting potassium and magnesium deficiencies; using mediums such as perlite, pine bark and rock wool for raising tomatoes; recycling perlite; measuring water quality in municipal water and rain water; the amount of salt tomato plants can tolerate; how many fruit per cluster should be left on a plant; common insects and diseases to look for when growing greenhouse tomatoes; harvesting and storing tomatoes; and reducing blotch discoloration of the fruit.

The seminar is expected to end at 5 p.m. For more information, call Hanna at (318) 741-7430 extension 1116 or e-mail him at [hhanna@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:hhanna@agcenter.lsu.edu).

The Red River Research Station is located on U.S. Hwy. 71 South near Bossier City.

### In the next Market Bulletin ...

*Professional dog training for hunting, obedience and working*  
*Updates on corn and cotton*  
*and tasty spring recipes*

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# From a tiny seedling *A mighty tree doth grow*

By Sam Irwin

The fact is much of New Orleans was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Low lying neighborhoods tightly packed between the famous crescent of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain were swamped, flooded and/or

destroyed when powerful storm surge waves punctured the levees protecting the human ecosystem.

The streets, barely passable in the Lakeview and Ninth Ward areas, have been cleared of downed trees and broken limbs, but the city's fabulous urban forest has been decimated.

The same holds true for southwest Louisiana cities and towns damaged by Hurricane Rita.

How do you rebuild a city? House

by house, street by street, neighborhood by neighborhood.

And tree by tree.

Hundreds of thousands of the historic port city's trees were lost to Katrina. Perhaps no tree planting season will be as important for New Orleans' future as

Spring 2006.

Urban forester Tom Campbell of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is a scientist and extremely pragmatic.

"Why plant now?" Campbell asked. "The sooner the better. There's no advantage to waiting if your neighborhood is ready for planting."

But planting a tree is much more than a practical calculation and Campbell recognizes the immeasurable value the simple act of dig-

ging a hole for a stick seedling represents.

"It's a statement of hope and optimism," Campbell said. "In terms of re-establishing trees, it's an attempt to bring back beauty and sanctuary to the city. It's a positive step."

Residents statewide can take advantage of LDAF's upcoming annual shade-tree seedling sale to purchase low-cost packets of quality hardwood tree seedlings ideal for planting in urban settings.

The hardwood packets will contain a total of six trees, including two baldcypress and one each of Chinese elm, green ash, Shumard oak and river birch at a cost of \$3.

While there is no silver lining to hurricanes Katrina & Rita, Campbell said certain caveats regarding trees were hammered home by the dismal 2005 storm season.

"It's important to learn from the lessons Katrina taught us," Campbell contended. "The lessons are: plant the right tree in the right spot. Don't plant large species too close to power lines or too close to houses. And be sure to select a species that will fit in the spot."

A high proportion of the trees that were destroyed by the hurricanes were of the "upright oak" varieties. Among them are the water oak, nuttall oak and cherry bark oak.

"Many of the larger upright oaks



**Plant seedlings just deep enough to keep the collar line (the point where root becomes stem) above ground.**



The hole for the seedling should be wider than seems necessary so the roots will have room to spread. Make sure the hole is deep enough to accommodate the main tap root without bending it into a "J." Break the excavated soil into small pieces and fill the hole.



**After a seedling is planted, it is a good idea to place some type of mulch around the base. The mulch helps keep moisture in and weeds out. A 2-inch by 2-inch stake is also a good idea to protect the infant tree from wind and mower damage.**

failed," Campbell said. "Partly because they were over-matured and partly because they were victims of past injury or damage."

Sidewalk or driveway construction, utility line trenching, soil compaction—all of these activities damage root systems, Campbell said.

"It was very plain to see trees that fell all the way over had past dam-

age to their root systems," the forester said. "That compromised the roots' ability to support the tree."

Campbell wasn't surprised the live oaks and baldcypress fared the best against Katrina's and Rita's mighty winds.

He went as far as to say the live oak was possibly the best species to *See Shade trees, page 10*

**LDAF ANNUAL SHADE-TREE SEEDLING SALE**  
AT LDAF DISTRICT OFFICES  
*March 6-10, statewide*  
*March 2-11, Lafayette*  
See list of District Office phone numbers on page 10 to call for sale hours.